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Picturesque
White Plains, N.Y.
Illustrated by
John Röscher



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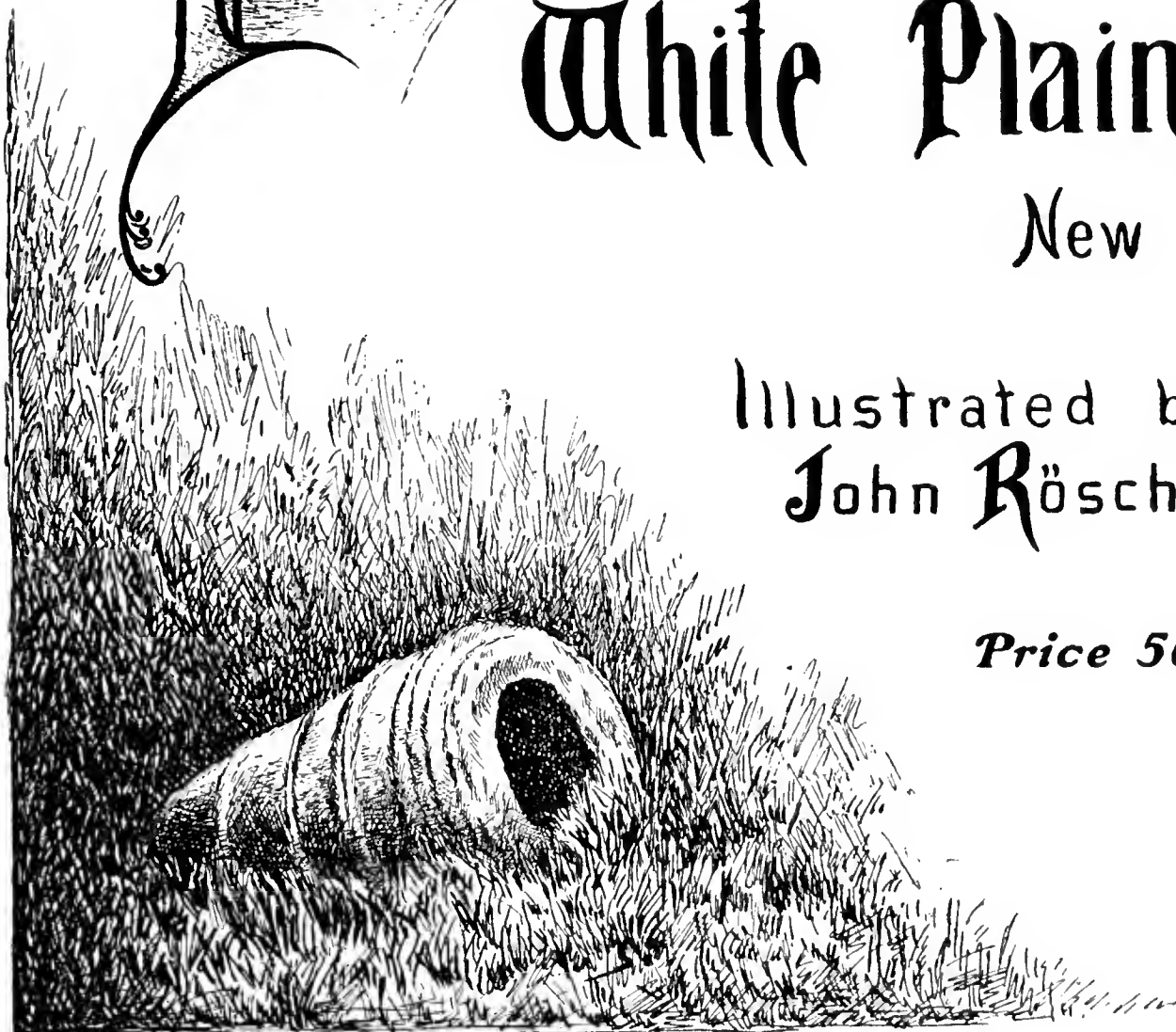
Picturesque

White Plains

New York

Illustrated by
John Röscher

Price 50 Cts.



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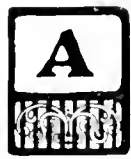
By JOHN RÖSCH,

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White Plains, N. Y.

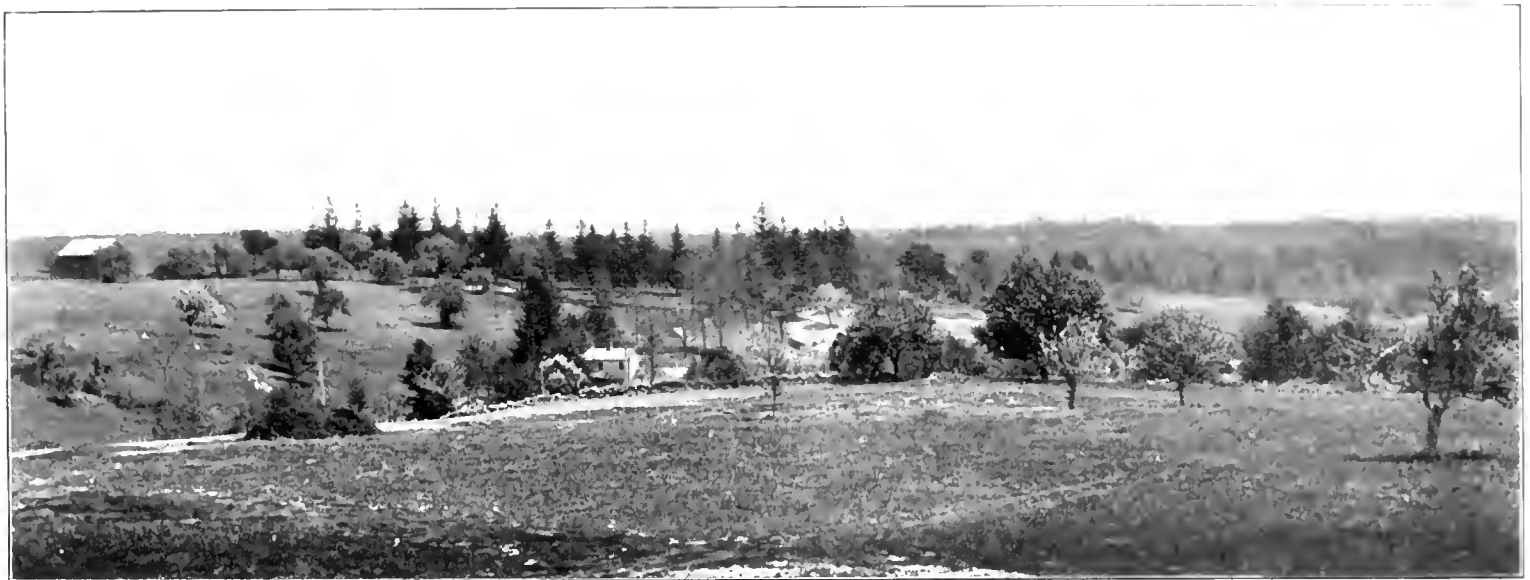
✧ White Plains, N. Y. ✧



“The apparel oft proclaims the man,” so the name of a place usually has some relation to its situation, commemorates some important event in its history, or is given in honor of its founder or benefactor. Such, however, is not the case with White Plains, for with singular infelicity of designation our forefathers selected a name entirely without significance and wholly misleading.

The stranger, hearing it spoken of, naturally pictures to himself the monotony of the prairie without its vastness, or the flats of Holland unrelieved by the picturesque windmill or the sluggish canal.

What, then, is the true topography of this village? Nestling among the rugged hills of old Westchester, with scarcely a level spot within its borders, it bears, as viewed from the south, a striking resem-



VIEW FROM HILLAIR.

blance to the beautiful city of Florence, the leaf-clad heights in the distance suggesting the cool shades of the Vallombrosia, the crystal Bronx representing the “Tawny Arno,” and the stately Court House reproducing the Italian villa.

If you would get a correct idea of its altitude and of the beauty of the surrounding country, stand on the great portico of the residence of Mr. O. R. Harriman, Jr., or on the site of Mr. Paul G. Thebaud’s new home, Hillair, and look about you.

Far below, in the valley, the Mamaroneck River pursues its tortuous course to the sea through an apparently unbroken forest, and beyond is the broad expanse of “The Sound” and the Long Island shore stretching to the east and



ON THE ELIXX

rest, until its outline gradually fades away and disappears. To your right is a panorama of hills called in by the Palisades.

Passing on to "Hill Crest" or "Ophir Castle," an entirely different scene presents itself, one that will make the Englishman feel quite at home as he views the rich rolling meadows, and the tall church spires rising from among the trees.

Do not be content with contemplating nature from afar. Come nearer and see what a rich floral store she has here. As you return from your office, weary and worn with the struggle of the day, she comes out to meet you and extend a grateful welcome.



HILL CREST

For Mrs. Child, right into the heart of the village, she has stationed a guard of Hemlocks to guard the "Golden" Bronx, clothing them with crimine and studding them with jewels in Winter, and in Summer, adorning every branchlet with a tassel of golden green. The silver-larked Beeches are stationed to guard and interlace their protecting branches above the rippling stream. Look to the west, and you will find the lovely Pinks on the western slope, and a little higher up, note the great variety of the white Do-good rising one above the other. Later in the season you will find the Golden Rod and the orange colored Butterfly Plant. But, if you would hold the hand of the "New" visit her in her virgin home up among "The Hills," on the steep slopes of the "Golden" Bronx. Here may be found the rare flora of this latitude, many of them unknown elsewhere. The hill sides are covered with Laurel and the Pink Azalia. In the shade of the hemlocks, you will find the Maotropa, the yellow and the pink Moccasin Flower, and several varieties



RIDGELY MANOR RESIDENCE OF OLIVER HARRIMAN, JR

of dainty Orchid. Up among the rocks the Arbutus, that harbinger of Spring, peeps out from among the withered leaves before the snow has taken its final leave.

Here, too, may be heard the bark of the fox, the drumming of the partridge, and at twilight, the wail of the whipporwill.

All this within a radius of three miles from the station, which can be reached in thirty-five minutes from 42d Street.

"As all roads led to Rome," so all roads in Westchester County lead to White Plains, and the converse of the proposition, which is more important for our present purpose, is that roads radiate from it in all directions, bringing its residents in touch with all parts of the County. And this is one of the very attractive features of the place. At most seaside resorts there are but one or two fine drives, but here one may drive over an entirely new road, with new surroundings and new scenes day after day, and make endless combinations extending the distance from five to twenty-five miles at pleasure. Yonkers, "Sunny Side," Sleepy Hollow, the parks and princely mansions



BROADWAY, LOOKING SOUTH



VIEW OF PARK LOOKING NORTHWEST



of Miss Gould and Mr. Wm. Rockefeller, are all within easy driving distance to the west. In the opposite direction, at no greater distance, are Larchmont, Orient, Rye Beach and Belle Haven, the Newport of Connecticut. If you prefer firm, woodland and lake scenery, take the State road along the base of the precipitous rocks of Mount Misery and Kenico Reservoir, cross the valley to King Street, return by way of Rye Lake and St. Mary's Lake and you have a picture of rural life and "beauty, peace and mountain" as worthy of the Adirondack or the Maine wilderness.

Within the 1700-acre park attention is given to the alignment and location of the train and the foot

fence is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. The most striking feature of all, and one that surprises the stranger and calls forth expressions of admiration, is Broadway, which was originally the one and only street of the town. Fifty years ago the County buildings, churches, stores, as well as the principal residences were here. This was White Plains. Now there is not an office or place of business to be found on it. A mile in length it gradually rises for two-thirds of the distance and then gently falls away. From a width of 100 feet at the upper end it widens out to more than 300 feet at the lower. Fine old trees shade the walks and drives and are scattered singly or in groups over



BROADWAY



SOLDIERS MONUMENT ON BROADWAY



DESIGNED BY CLARE FARLEY

giving effective masses of color on the rolling hillside and in the openings among the trees. Nothing speaks more eloquently of the general law abiding character of the residents, than the fact that it is a rare exception when a flower is plucked or disturbed, though wholly unprotected by any enclosure and growing in some instances, close to the beaten track of travel, over which hundreds of men, women and children, in every walk of life, pass daily.

All the improvements contemplated may not be completed this season, but within two years at the latest, the main features at least will become realities, for with the interest of the people so thoroughly aroused as it now is, nothing can stop the good work, and when it is finished it will be the most combination of park and esplanade to be found in any village in the Empire State, and a new joy to all lovers of the beautiful. To show it, and in the process to create a style and homeliness in the homes, is a measure which will be a credit to every park and garden in the State, and will do more to bring about the realization of the dream of the village of the future than any other single measure.

the broad green. During the past Summer the roadways have been curbed, guttered and macadamized. Double approaches have been made to the principal intersecting streets, leaving triangular plots of varying size for fountain, shrubbery or flowers. This is under the care of the Village Park Association, which has done much to arouse interest in this fine old street and to develop its infinite possibilities as a public park. Although this organization has been in existence only about three years, surprising results have already crowned its efforts. Unshorn grass has been succeeded by velvety turf, and gay flowers now bloom where unsightly weeds held undisputed possession of the ground,



DESIGNED BY JAMES J. WALLER



HAMILTON AVENUE.

the woods and by the lakes; superb views of wide extent over a most picturesque country, every charm of rural life.

To do justice to White Plains in a space so limited is impossible. This, speaking in language appropriate to the subject, must necessarily be only the frame work around which a most substantial house might be built.

The development of White Plains real estate has been remarkable in many respects. There are men living here to-day, who well remember the time when White Plains consisted of a few buildings grouped chiefly around the lower or southern end of Broadway. Today there are approximately 2,200 buildings within the corporate limits, and a great tract of about five square miles is thickly settled by White Plains citizens. Building operations are steadily increasing in number and importance. It is estimated that last year, in the neighborhood of 175 houses were built; and despite the comparatively great cost of building at this time, many new buildings are in course of construction. In character, these houses range from the modest cottage to the mansion of the millionaire. Another development in the building line is the construction of office buildings. A fire-proof brick office building was a comparatively recent addition to the architecture of the village, and two other brick office buildings, one of which is five stories in height, have just been completed; while still another will soon be under way.

An interesting feature of this rapid progress in building has been the opening and development of new sections. Almost in a night, it has seemed, tracts of more or less unkempt land have been opened and developed, and turned into park-like regions with macadam roads, stone side-walks, green



AND THE NEW

RESERVOIR

STATION





COURT STREET

lawns and pretty homes. And yet, in the face of all this development, real estate men agree that they are unable to meet the demand for houses to rent on the part of strangers who wish to locate here. Between 1890 and 1900, the population of White Plains has nearly doubled. In respect to the percentage of increase of population during this period, White Plains probably leads the cities and villages of the State of New York. This fact has caused much comment and no little surprise. And with this great increase in population has come as a natural sequence, a great increase in real estate values. In quick succession, section after section of new territory has been opened, developed and im-



RESIDENCE OF J. T. LOCKWOOD

Yet in spite of the fact that all of this additional land has been made available for homes the advance in values generally has been strong and steady. In many sections of the village, lots command two or three times what they might have been purchased for a few years ago. Some land, for instance, that three years ago was used as a cow pasture and was purchasable for a few hundred dollars an acre, now sells at \$1,000 or more a front foot with a depth of only 125 feet. The home-seeker may still, however, find hundreds of desirable lots that can be secured at such a low price as to be easily within the reach of the man of modest income. As indicative of the advance and development of



REAR SIDE OF HOUSE OF MRS. J. H. KENYAL



FRONT SIDE OF HOUSE OF MRS. J. H. KENYAL



MAMARONECK AVENUE

White Plains real estate, it is worth while to compare the corporate assessments of different periods. In the year 1891, the total assessed value of real estate in the village was \$1,261,178.00, with a personal assessment of \$78,700.00. Five years later, in 1896, the assessment of real estate was \$2,142,105.00, and the assessment of personalty, \$98,500.00. At the expiration of another five year period, in 1901, we find our real estate assessed at \$6,761,065.00, and our personalty at \$1,064,908.00, or a grand total of over \$7,800,000.00. It is interesting to note that in the twenty years from 1871 to 1891, there was an advance of only about \$300,000.00 in the assessed value of real estate, to wit:



RIDGE LAWN RESIDENCE OF MRS. M. B. MOEHRING



CLIFFORD HOUSE, 125 N. OIL, RENOVATED

from approximately one million to one million three hundred thousand, and that most of this wonderful advance noted above has taken place in the last five years. Of course, in comparing real estate assessments of different years, the fact that assessors have frequently adopted a different standard or percentage of valuation must be considered, but these figures will convey a fair idea of the remarkable advance.

Some of our friends along the river and elsewhere, who have noted our progress, while their own homes have perhaps stood still, or taken a few steps backwards, find it hard to understand this prosperity and ask the why and wherefore. The reasons are many, and a few will be men-

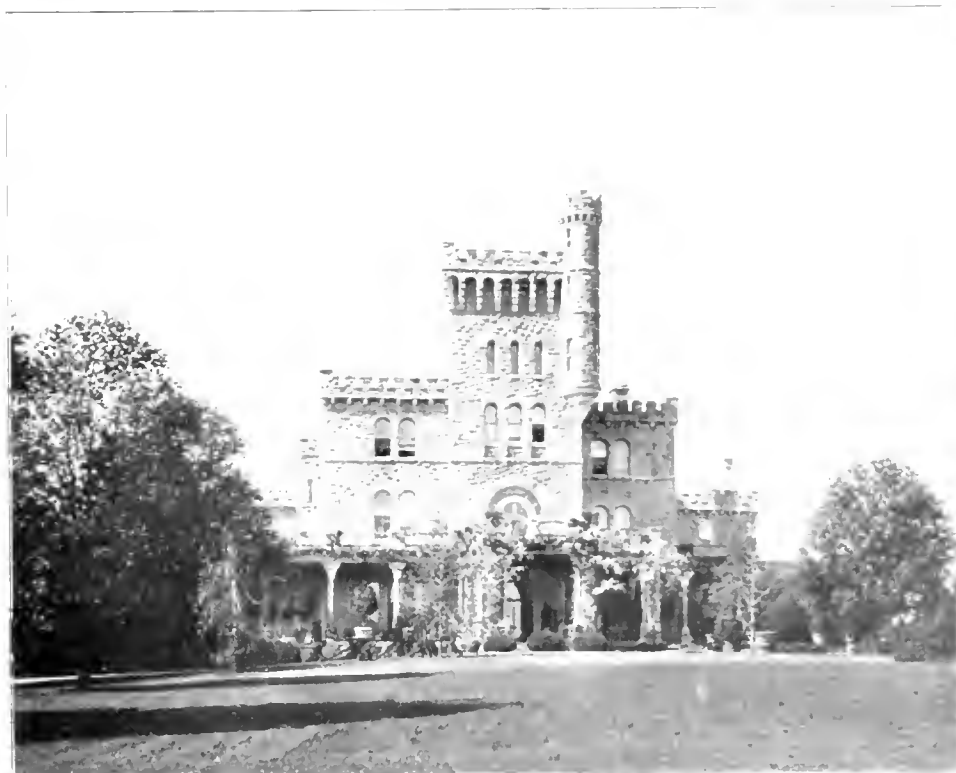




GEDNEY FARM RESIDENCE OF HOWARD WILLIAMS

tioned. Some we may credit to nature and some to men. No one of these reasons is probably entitled to be designated "the" reason, but each has had potent influence and they have united to make White Plains one of the most desirable places of residence within the limits of civilization—a broad statement to be sure, but one, the truth of which may be demonstrated.

The village of White Plains is truly remarkable for its healthful location. In fact, there is no place within the same distance of New York that can compare with it in this respect. As far as malaria is concerned, while this dreaded poison is found more or less in most places up to a certain degree of latitude, it



OPHE FARM RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM J. LEE



LOOKING S. W. ALONG CENTRAL AVENUE.

can be stated truthfully, that for many years the village has been entirely free from it.

The town suffers less from epidemics than any of the surrounding villages, and when any of them do appear they seem never to attain to any great magnitude nor do they ever become very violent.

As to accessibility, the village is centrally located between the Hudson River and Long Island Sound. It is only a mile from each and is accessible by water and electric cars. It is the terminus of the Morris Avenue car line from Union Village. It is also the terminus of the Morris Avenue car line from Manhattan. It is also the terminus of the Hudson River car line from New York City.



1891

Connecticut shore, Larchmont, New Rochelle and the City of New York. Still another arm extends to Scarsdale, and this will soon reach Mount Vernon and connect there with a line to Yonkers. And it is probable that soon another trolley arm will be under construction to the north. One of the reasons why White Plains citizens are sanguine of the future, lies in the fact that the village is destined to be the centre of a great electric surface railway system, binding together all parts of the county and bringing them into close touch with the vast territory beyond the Westchester boundaries. Those having business in New York City comprise a large percentage of the population of the village. The regu-



RESIDENCE OF H. C. HENDERSON



GREENRIDGE AVENUE

One trip fare is fifty cents; the round trip fare is ninety cents; the round trip by the so-called family ticket costs fifty-seven cents, and by the monthly ticket only about twenty cents or about \$6.35 a month.

Natural opportunity for expansion is another reason for White Plains' past, present and future growth. The needle of the compass can point in no direction in which White Plains cannot spread. No river, sound, or insurmountable hills cut her off on any side. On the contrary she is wholly surrounded by tracts of land which are suitable and desirable for residential purposes.

As the county seat of one of the most populous and wealthy counties in the State of New York, White Plains possesses a peculiar importance. Here are the offices of the Register, County Clerk, County Treasurer, Sheriff, and other county officers. Here sit the Supreme, Surrogate and County Courts, and the various trial terms during the year bring to White Plains a multitude of lawyers, litigants, witnesses and jurors. The Board of Supervisors also have here their sessions.

In its nearness to New York City, lies one of the chief reasons for the advance of local real estate. So long as New York City grows White Plains must grow. The suburban district contiguous to New York City is vast and varied, but no other section of it offers so many advantages for a place of residence as White Plains. New York City Hall can now be reached more quickly from White Plains, than from many sections of the Borough of Manhattan itself. While those who are able to judge from experience, will commonly concede that the shopping and theatrical districts of the Borough of Manhattan can be reached not only with greater comfort, but with greater speed from White Plains than from most sections of the Borough of Brook'yn. The new rapid transit system now under construction in New York City, will be a great and particular blessing to the suburban district north of the city, and our village will come in for its full measure of advantage. By means of it, the trip from White Plains to City Hall in the Borough of Manhattan, can probably be made in less than fifty minutes with the improvements contemplated and fully explained on

another page. As to general improvements, there have been many. A few years ago a common expression was: "The one thing that White Plains needs is good roads." She has them now. During the past seven years twelve miles of the village streets have been paved with brick, or macadamized. Railroad Avenue, the chief business street and several other streets have been paved over a part or the whole of their length with brick, while nearly all other important streets have been macadamized and equipped with brick-paved gutters. On this feature of municipal improvement alone, the village has expended \$300,000, and the work has been done within the village limits, as required by the State Constitution, and no work on the highways has been done. Outside of the village limits, and within a radius of five miles of the village limits, the State has expended \$1,000,000 on the same feature.

Many of the improvements mentioned above have been made by the village.



CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.

cost of approximately \$160,000.00, and the County is rapidly being covered with a net work of macadamized roads centering at White Plains.

Another improvement worth noticing is the village water system, which is now the property of the municipality.

A storage reservoir with a capacity of one hundred million gallons has been recently constructed at a cost of \$1,000,000.00, while the expense of acquiring the land needed for a water-shed was about \$60,000.00. This has been a large, but at the same time a wise and necessary expenditure, and White Plains now has a well nigh unsurpassed water supply and system. The village



CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY PAROCHIAL SCHOOL PARISH

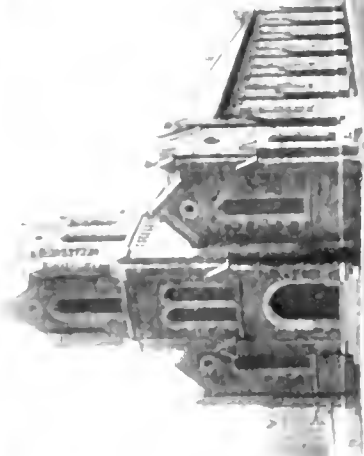


THE COLLEGE

MEMORIAL M E



CHURCH



CHURCH



CHURCH

water is clean and clear, most agreeable to the taste, and has been proved by expert examination to be pure and wholesome. Further there are no corporate profits to be realized, and water is supplied to the consumer at an unusually low rate.

Another noteworthy fact in connection with our water system is the high pressure, which proves so advantageous in case of fire.

Under direct pumping, the pressure at hydrant, usually about 86 pounds, can be increased to 140 pounds, and made to equal the capacity of a first-class steam fire engine. This, in addition to a first-class fire alarm system, brings us to the mention of the very efficient volunteer fire department of White Plains.

Many times, what threatened to be a disastrous conflagration has been extinguished with little damage, solely by reason of the prompt, courageous and intelligent manner in which the local firemen have responded. They are a well-trained, well-disciplined and well-equipped body of men. Considering the size of the village, the loss by fire has been very small, and the rate of insurance, a point of interest to all owners of

improved property, is nearly or quite the "rock bottom" figure of insurance companies.

In her sewerage and drainage systems the village is also fortunate. The sewer system has been extended to every part of the village and connection with it is made compulsory. The natural drainage of the village is excellent and it is supplemented by a good system of drains.

Another recent improvement came in the establishment of the free mail delivery, which has been extended even to the rural districts.

Along every possible line of progress in the field of real estate, White Plains is advancing. Buildings which have been recently erected, or are in course of construction, are not only notable in



GROUNDS OF H. A. SCHERMERDORN



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM R. BROWN



THE SHERBORN HOUSE, WHITE PLAINS

locality a diversity of charms which elicit praise from every prospector. Those who came here to reside, seldom go away again except compelled by adverse circumstances. The reason of this is that our air, water and scenery are unsurpassed in all the elements and characteristics of a healthful, picturesque and well-located country home. Our elevation above tidewater is about 270 feet. With the ocean within only a few miles on the east and the hills and mountains of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania on the west. These conditions are known to give that atmospheric perfection which begets robust health.

Considering the large amount necessarily expended in securing the many improvements noted in this article and many not mentioned the tax rate is not high, but is what must be expected in a modern, up-to-date village the citizens of which are unwilling to submit to the discomforts and danger of the disagreeable and unsanitary conditions that prevail in many villages of equal wealth and population. The rate of taxation, including all taxes chargeable against property within the corporate limits, is less than two per cent.

A marked peculiarity of White Plains is the absence of any factories. There are no factories here, other than two planing mills, the output of which is used principally in local building operations. White Plains is therefore purely a residential place and is free from the noise and smoke that detract so materially from the peace and comfort of factory towns.

All the Christian denominations are represented, and have large and flourishing congregations.

Population, within village, ten thousand.

Population credit to exal preals, in our com merchants. No town in Westchester County can boast more than a smaller market.

number, but in the improved order of architecture and the higher regard for the artistic, that is now shown. And the owners of old as well as new buildings, speaking generally, are displaying a greater pride in their maintenance than was once the rule. Civic pride is wide awake.

Great as the development of White Plains in recent years has been, a greater advance may confidently be expected within the next few years. The conditions at no time in the history of the village were more favorable for rapid progress than they are today.

The many attractions which exalt White Plains are perceptible to even any casual visitor. Nature has done her part in giving to this



CHESTER AVENUE.

Our Railroad Facilities

What might possibly be considered the eighth wonder of the world is the fact that the village of White Plains, served by but one transportation company, which is absolutely free from competition, has a train service which is pronounced satisfactory by those who have occasion to patronize it. The New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, without the incentive of competition on the part of rival lines, and not hampered by the prevailing competitive methods of trolley lines, gives a suburban service between New York and White Plains, which is equalled by but one instance in the United States. The present service is the result of a steady and satisfactory growth from year to year, until at the present time about as many trains are run during the rush hours of the day, as the present track accommodations will take care of. It is gratifying to note, also, that for years the service given has actually exceeded the bare necessities of the business to be taken care of and that instead of being a little behind the times with its service, the railroad company has led the procession, and is now reaping the resulting benefits.



RESIDENCE OF R. YOUNG



From 5 a. m. until 12 midnight, a day of 19 hours, White Plains has 40 trains to New York, which averages about one train every 25 minutes. Of these, 27 are local trains, leaving on the hour through the day, with an adequate number of additional southbound trains in the rush hours; 14 are local express trains, and 8 are through express trains, well distributed through the day, making no stops between White Plains and New York.

From 7 a. m. until 2.40 a. m., a day of 19 hours and 40 minutes, there arrive at White Plains from New York, 47 trains, which averages about the same as the southbound service. Of these, 27 are local trains, 13 local expresses, and 7 through expresses.

From 6 to 9 a.m. there is a train every 15 minutes to New York. From 4 to 7 p.m. there is a train every 15 minutes from New York to White Plains.

It is a well-known fact that trains running long distances are more liable to delays from various causes, than those running short distances. The Harlem Division of the New York Central, running through White Plains, is purely a local line, running no long and heavy through trains and as a consequence, the schedule is not disturbed through such through trains being off their schedules and interfering with the time for local trains as is frequently the case on almost every other railroad running out from New York. The percentage of trains making schedule time is very high, and compares most favorably with any other service out of the metropolis.

Any statement regarding the train service of White Plains, must take into consideration the fact that it is on one of the three roads which alone actually run into any part of the City of New York. The Hudson and Harlem Divisions of the New York Central, and the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, are the only lines actually running trains into the metropolis, making stops at Mott Haven, 125th Street and 122nd Street. All other suburban service from New York begins and ends on a foreign shore, and must gain its access to the city proper by ferry, at the present time. The physical conditions of the City of New York are such that this is a wonderful disadvantage, and one which should be given serious consideration by those contemplating suburbanization. A great deal has been said of the possibility of a tunnel through which these lines might enter South Street in New York City, and it must be admitted that any tunnel is and must be a great convenience; but any tunnel must be built on the experience with the New York City tunnel, be weather conditions considered, and the inevitable discomforts of the passengers from the ferry, and you will find that it is not so simple to get one's feet in the city as it is to get one's feet in the suburbs.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS





—HIGHTS—HIGHTS—HIGHTS—

a new and well-planned suburban station on the block embraced within Vanderbilt and Madison Avenues and 141st and 142nd Streets, such subway to be so constructed as to exclude all smoke and gas, all local trains to be hauled between Mott Haven Junction and the terminal station by electricity. This will be a great improvement, and it will practically eliminate all the present objections to the tunnel entrance to the heart of the city. This work has already been started, and will be completed as rapidly as possible.

In regard, in addition to all its other claims as a suburban home center, the village of White Plains has the most indispensable feature of suburban life, a first-class train service. In this respect it is excelled by no other village in the out-lying suburbs, and the center of the suburban world is called New York. The service is provided by a company which has kept its fleet of cars and engines in the best of times, and it is a fact that the train service is the most reliable and comfortable in the country. In the village of White Plains, and in the surrounding suburbs, the train service is the most reliable and comfortable in the country.



RESTON—JOHN M. DUNNE



FISHER AVENUE SOUTH



FISHER AVENUE NORTH

Our Public Schools



DEVON SCHOOL

THE public school system of a town is a sure index to the character of the people. The material development, the intellectual life, the social standards, the moral concepts of a community are all dependent on, and all spring from the schools and the churches. The public schools should produce, or at least endeavor to produce, self-reliant, self-controlling, and self-respecting men and women.

Education means in a broad sense, power to grasp and to solve the great problems of life; it means getting hold upon the great thoughts of the past and the present; it means com-

ing in contact with the great minds of the past and the present; it means a broad and clear conception of nature and of nature's God; it means power of concentration and application; it means adaptation to environments; it means power not only to do good, to encourage great activity on the part of those about us; it means in short the development of the perfect man or the perfect woman.

A review of our public schools shows that the administration is along these lines, and the citizens are in thorough sympathy with all that is highest and best.

Our public schools are good enough for children from the most cultured homes, and they are so free from bigotry that all may conscientiously enjoy their benefits. The school system, comprised of forty-nine full-time, full-day grades from kindergarten to normal school, has been developed with great care. The Board of Education and Superintendent have been successful in securing the best of the community for the schools, and the schools have been successful in securing the best of the community for the schools. The schools have been successful in securing the best of the community for the schools, and the schools have been successful in securing the best of the community for the schools.



HIGH SCHOOL



HIGH SCHOOL.

The total enrollment is about 1,300. There are three well organized grammar schools, and a thoroughly equipped high school.

Over 100 pupils from adjoining towns are registered in our schools, and the monthly income from these pupils is about \$400.

Text books, stationery, and material are furnished children without cost.

Sanitary and health conditions receive very careful consideration.

Children are not allowed to sit in school with wet feet or with rubbers on, and if the face or hands need washing or the hair needs combing, the teachers feel that these are matters of prime importance. The temperature, light and ventilation are watched with care, deaf children



FISHER AVENUE SCHOOL.

to place in front seats and children whose sight is impaired are placed where they can see to the best advantage. Examinations made under the direction of the supervisor of physical culture have disclosed many cases of impaired vision, imperfect hearing, and curvature of the spine. All such cases are reported to the parents, and in many cases so reported have been treated by specialists. The seats are carefully adjusted to the size of the child and in every possible way we endeavor to surround the pupils with proper physical conditions.

All cases of contagious diseases are promptly reported to the superintendent of schools by the Board of Health. Immediately all children who could by any possibility be affected, by the cases so reported, are excluded from the school and not readmitted except by certificate from the health officer. If a child should be taken suddenly ill in school, with a contagious disease, a physician employed by the Board of Education examines every child in the room, and causes the room to be thoroughly fumigated, to remove all possibility of further contagion. Teachers are constantly on guard, and suspicious cases are often excluded without the order of a physician. The truant officer prevents the spread of disease by reporting to the superintendent cases not attended by a physician.

We believe most thoroughly that education is for all rather than for a favored few, yet the establishment of institutions for higher education has been a wonderful inspiration to the common schools. Colleges demand thoroughly prepared students, and as a result, college authorities and instructors turn their attention toward the common schools and lend their influence to the upbuilding and betterment of secondary instruction. Any town which maintains a good high school is pretty sure to have satisfactory elementary schools, for various reasons. As the college demands and helps to secure secondary schools, so the high school holds the elementary schools to a strict accountability in instruction and discipline. Further than this, just as the prospect of college work is an inspiration to a high school student, so pupils in the elementary school will do better work, will have more interest in school and will be more apt to continue at their books if the prospect of high school work is before them.

The science department is now one of the most important and interesting departments of our high school, and the equipment and facilities are complete. Our students in physics, chemistry and botany are now able to handle apparatus in the direction of the instructor. Theory has been supplanted by practice, and the pupils are enabled to perform experiments, to analyze and to know for themselves; arbitrary assignments have been eliminated, and the element of interest has eliminated inattention.

Art is becoming more and more popular among our students, and in every possible way we endeavor to



RESIDENCE OF H. P. STEWARD

to give them the best of all that we can, not only among our high school students but in the upper grades

Football engages the attention of our boys during the Fall months, while baseball and field sports are reserved for the Spring. All these games, aside from their value in physical training, increase interest and pride in our schools. There is a greater spirit of loyalty and a more determined effort to succeed when the element of competition is introduced.

Courtesy, consideration for the rights of others, self-control, perseverance, fairness and courage, are some of many attributes cultivated in the pursuit of athletics.

Our town is centrally located and easily accessible by trolley, by train or by carriage. We offer in our high school, preparation for



RESIDENCE OF E. F. HAVILAND



GRAND STREET





RESIDENCE OF CHAS. DEUTERMAN



RESIDENCE OF H. E. SCHMIDT, M. D.



RESIDENCE OF REV. DR. J. W. T. DOCTHE



RESIDENCE OF HOWARD GOSSETT



RESIDENCE OF BENONI PLATT



RESIDENCE OF J. C. S.



CO. H. S. REEF



business, for college or for technical schools. As a result, a large number of students are attracted from surrounding towns; attention is thus centered on our community, business interests are advanced, people settle in our midst for educational purposes, and there is a high moral and intellectual atmosphere directly traceable to our high school.

Our graduation exercises call to town men of national reputation as commencement speakers. Since we have held regular commencement exercises we have had as speakers: Hon. Charles R. Skinner, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Hon. D. E. Vinworth, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction; Charles F. Whelock, Head Inspector



BARKER TERRACE



RESIDENCE OF CHAS. V. MOORE

of the Regents of the University; I. H. Stout, Supervisor of Training Classes, and Dr. A. C. McLachlan, Principal of the Jamaica Normal School. Men of this character add dignity to our educational interests, and increase the respect of our people for the schools. An excellent public library stands on the same ground with the high school building, and it is easily accessible for all the students from the various schools.

The Board of Education have established a night school, which is in session during the early months of the year.

Altogether, the educational interests of our town are very carefully conserved, very ably sustained and the citizens are unanimous and enthusiastic in their support.



LEXINGTON AVENUE.



White Plains, the Birthplace of the State of New York.

BY far the most interesting and important event in the Revolutionary history of White Plains, was the assembling of the Provincial Congress of the Colony of New York at the Court House, on the 6th day of July, 1776, pursuant to an adjournment from New York City.

The Congress was organized by the election of General Nathaniel Woodhull as President, who, within a few short weeks thereafter, was destined to lose his life by reason of wound received at the hands of the British on Long Island.

The following Deputies were present from Westchester County, viz: Colonel Lewis Graham, Colonel Pierre Van Cortlandt, Major Ebenezer Lockwood, William Paudling, Captain Jonathan Platt, Samuel Haviland, Zebediah Mills, Colonel Gilbert Drake, Jonathan G. Tompkins, General Lewis Morris, and Gouverneur Morris.

The Congress remained in session at White Plains until July 27th, when it adjourned to meet at Harlem on July 28th.

The following letter dated July 6th, 1776, was received from the Delegates to the Continental Congress, then in session at Philadelphia, viz:

Philadelphia, July 6th, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN,"

"Although it is not possible to foresee the consequences of human actions, yet it is nevertheless a duty we owe ourselves and posterity in all our public councils to decide in the best manner we are able, and to trust the event to that Being who controls both causes and events, so as to bring about his own determination.

Impressed with this sentiment, and at the same time fully convinced that our affairs may take a more favorable turn, the Congress have judged it necessary to dissolve all connection between Great Britain and the American Colonies, and to declare them free and independent states, as you will perceive by the enclosed Declaration, which I am directed to transmit to you; and to request you will have it proclaimed in your Colony in the way you shall think most proper.

The important consequences to the American States from this Declaration of Independence, considered the ground and foundation of a future government, will naturally suggest the propriety of having it proclaimed in such a manner as that the people may be universally informed of it."

"I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,"

"JOHN HANCOCK, *President*."

Held at the Convention of New York.

The following proceedings were had by the Congress: Resolved, That the Declaration be referred to a committee consisting of Mr. Jay, Mr. Yates, Mr. Hobart, Mr. Clinton, and Mr. Woodhull.

Resolved, That the Declaration be referred to the consideration of the Committee of the Continental Congress, and the Committee be requested to report the following, which was accordingly done on the next following, that is to



ALBANY COURTHOUSE, ALBANY, N.Y.



RESIDENCE OF W. R. McGRATH



RESIDENCE OF W. F. FIERO

Grounds upon which Declaration of Independence was adopted in New York State.

"In Convention of the Representatives of the State of New York
White Plains, July 9, 1776.

"Resolved unanimously, That the reasons assigned by the Continental Congress for declaring the United Colonies free and independent States are cogent and conclusive; and that while we lament the cruel necessity which has rendered that measure unavoidable, we approve the same, and will, at the risk of our lives and fortunes, join with the other Colonies in supporting it."

"Resolved, That a copy of the said Declaration and the foregoing resolution be sent to the Chairman of the Committee of the County of Westchester, with orders to publish the same with beat of drum, at this place on Thursday next, and to give directions that it be published with all convenient speed in the several districts within the said county; and that copies thereof be forthwith transmitted to the other county committees within the State of New York, with order to cause the same to be published in the several districts of their respective Counties."



THE SECOND COURT HOUSE
Site of First Court House



THE FALCONER WELL, 1800
Remains of the old well

Resolved, That three copies of the Declaration of Independence with the two last mentioned resolutions of this Congress, for approving and proclaiming the same, be published in handbills and sent to all the county committees in this State."

"Resolved, That the Delegates of this State in Continental Congress be and they are hereby authorized to consent and adopt all such measures as they may deem conducive to the happiness and welfare of the United States of America."

"Ordered, That copies of the aforesaid resolutions be transmitted to the Continental Congress."

On the 4th day of July, the following resolution was adopted by the Provincial Congress, viz:

"Resolved and Ordered, That the style or title of this House be changed from that of 'the Provincial Congress of the Colony of New York' to that of 'the Convention of the Representatives of the State of New York'."

This is the first time the expression "State of New York" was officially used and the passage of this resolution properly marks the birth of the State and this old town of White Plains enjoys the supreme distinction of having been its birthplace.

It is an interesting fact and highly suggestive of the readiness of the representatives of the people of this Colony to accept the action of the Continental Congress in dissolving all relations with the mother country, that the above quoted resolutions of July 6th, were adopted before official notice of the Declaration of Independence had reached the Provincial Congress.

This appears by the following letter from the Congress to the body sitting at Philadelphia:

"July 11th, 1777."

"SIR: Your letter of the 6th July inst enclosing a copy of the Declaration of Congress proclaiming the United Colonies free and inde-



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE HOWARD





LAKE KENSICO

pendent States, and requesting us to proclaim and publish the same in this Colony, has been received."

"It gives us pleasure to inform you, that, having been informed of that Declaration by our Delegates, we have anticipated the request of the Congress by our resolutions of the 9th inst., a copy of which was enclosed in a letter we did ourselves the honour of writing you this morning."

"We have the honour to be, etc."

By order,

"The Honourable John Hancock."

(unsigned.)

A fit ending of this brief account of the circumstances attending the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Colony of New York, is the following eloquent and prophetic letter from John Hancock to the Committee of Safety, then sitting at Fishkill, during a recess of the Provincial Congress, viz :

Baltimore, January 31, 1777.

Gentlemen:—

As there is not a more distinguished event in the history of America than the Declaration of her Independence, nor any that, in all probability, will so much excite the attention of future ages, it is highly proper that the memory of that transaction, together with the causes that gave rise to it, should be preserved in the most careful manner that can be devised; I am therefore, commanded by Congress to transmit you the enclosed copy of the Act of Independence, with the list of the several members of Congress subscribed thereto, and to request that you will cause the same to be put upon record, that it may henceforth form a part of the archives of your State, and remain a lasting testimony of your approbation of that necessary and important measure.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

Honourable Convention of the State of New York.

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

The Battle of White Plains.



WHITE PLAINS was originally settled by men from the shore town of Rye. By reason of its inland situation it bore a very inconspicuous part in the early public affairs of the American Colonies. Its inhabitants were intent on the tillage of the soil and the incidental milling of their grain and saving of their lumber for the practical uses of their peaceful life. They were loyal to their sovereign and the oppressions of the British Crown were less sorely felt than in the more seacoast towns. By the removal of the County Court House from Westchester to White Plains in 1783 the life of the hamlet grew more variegated and interesting, and came into closer touch with the requirements of the times. The town became the gathering place for public assemblies where the political affairs of the colony were hotly discussed, and appeals to the spirit of liberty and independence were frequent and earnest. Here, in time, the Provincial Congress of New York held its sittings and the momentous questions of the day were debated. Here the Declaration of Independence was first read in the State of New York, and White Plains rose to a prominent place in Colonial affairs. And here was soon after to be enacted one of the most important events in the history of the American Revolution. The battle of White Plains, as a contest of arms, takes no rank among the great battles of history, but its bearings on the future of the American nation were of the utmost importance.

The Revolution, begun at the battle of Lexington, in April, 1775, had been up to August, 1776, almost entirely favorable to the Colonists. The British Army, under Howe, had been forced to retire from Boston and to shelter in Halifax. Montgomery, though finally defeated at Quebec, had driven Carleton from Lake Champlain to Montreal and then to Quebec. Clinton's naval expedition to South Carolina had been a complete failure. The British had no foothold within the thirteen colonies.

Parliament had at last begun to realize the magnitude of the task they had undertaken, had appropriated £1,000,000 for vigorous prosecution of the war, had raised a large force of skilled soldiery at home and had dispatched Hessian troops from Germany. Their purpose was to concentrate the combined forces at New York, meet in union with Carleton from the north, take possession of the Hudson and so cut off communication between New England and the other colonies. This large army was sent over in August, 1776, and landed at Staten Island. Washington had massed his troops, 11,000 strong, for the protection of the city, and his army was entrenched on Brooklyn Heights. A few days later the British landed at Gravesend Bay, near Fort Brooklyn. The battle of Long Island followed, resulting in defeat and great loss to the Americans. Under cover of night and a thick fog, they retreated across the river to New York, and Washington's badly discouraged troops on Harlem Heights. Howe followed, taking possession of the city and the harbor. A skirmish took place. General Howe's plan now, was to get in the rear of the Americans, to separate and crush his entire army and crushing out the rebellion at a single blow. He sent a detachment of 1,000 men of troops to Throgg's Neck. Washington, ever alert, saw Howe's intention and sent a detachment of 1,000 men to intercept him. This expedition was so far successful that the British were obliged to retreat, while Washington made preparations to move his army to the city.

On the 28th of November, 1776, when there was now no alternative left him but to abandon the city, Washington moved his army and the army of Fort Mifflin alone was left with a garrison, and the British moved on. On the 29th of November, Washington moved rapidly on over King's Bridge over Valentine's Island to the end of the Bronx to White Plains, where the stores had already been concentrated.

RAMPARTS ON MOUNT MISERY



VIEW FROM CLARK'S HILL

BATTLE
OF
WHITE PLAINS

OCTOBER
28th
1776



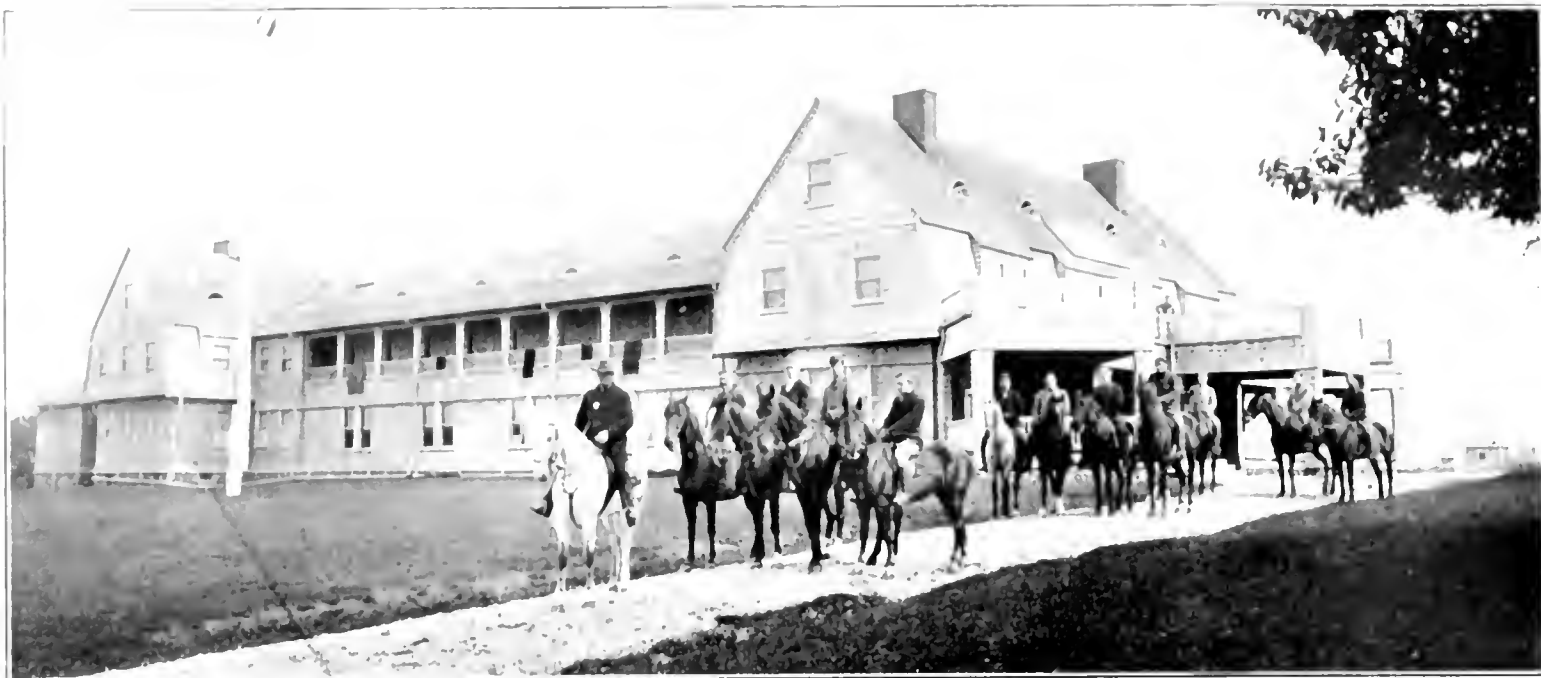
WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS



VIEW FROM MOUNT MISERY



RAMPARTS ON MT MISERY



VAL MCDUGALL'S SANATORIUM

Here the army arrived on October 21st, and rested on the hilly ground, north of the village; their lines extending from the Bronx over Dusenbury's Hill, across Broadway and eastward to the rocky hills at Horton's Pond, now St. Mary's Lake. There on the two following days, they built three lines of breastworks on the hillsides at varying elevations. General Lee from the south had arrived with two divisions and the total number of troops was about 25,000; but one-half of these were sick or unfit for duty. The remaining 12,000 were raw recruits, farmers' boys, undisciplined, mostly un-uniformed, ragged, ill-fed and disheartened, and hundreds, their terms of enlistment having expired, were daily leaving the ranks and going home. With infinite patience, Washington inspired them and kept them at work, preparing for the conflict, which seemed to be inevitable.



UNION SOCIETY

Meantime, Howe, abandoning the attempt to get in rear of Washington's army, had withdrawn his forces from Throgg's Neck, and landing them at Pelham, marched through New Rochelle up North Street to Scarsdale, where the army lay in camp for several days. Here Howe laid his plans for a final and decisive engagement, which would annihilate the rebel army, and crush the rebellion. Everything being ready, on October 28th, Howe, with his entire army, numbering 15,000 disciplined soldiers, came up the Post Road from Scarsdale, driving in the American pickets, and spread out his lines eastward over the Plains from the Bronx to the Mamaroneck Road.

Washington had despatched



GROVE STREET



THE KERLEY INSTITUTE

ment—with one artillery
 in front of General Mac
 Donnell to hold Chatterton Hill.
 Howe, perceiving their position, sent
 a detachment of Hessian infantry
 and grenadiers with the 2d English
 Brigade to dislodge them. Crossing
 the Bronx at the ford probably near
 the present Sewage Disposal Works,
 they filed along Mill Lane, covered
 by the fire of the British cannon
 from the plateau on the east side
 of the river. Suddenly facing to the
 left in a long line they rushed up
 the steep and rugged hill in the face
 of a raking and deadly fire from the
 summit while the bulk of the hostile
 forces, Washington from the hills,
 and Howe from the Plains, watched
 the combat from afar. Laboriously,



WHITE PLAINS HOSPITAL.

but with the steadiness of trained soldiers, the Royal forces stormed the hill while the Americans poured
 down a raking fire of shot, and with great bravery resisted every approach. The Americans were holding
 their position, but the British lines were breaking and their men were falling fast, and it seemed to the watching
 British that the Americans had won the day; when suddenly, Colonel Rall, in command of two regiments of

Hessians, who had climbed by an
 easier ascent on the south, appeared
 over the brow of the hill from the
 west and opened a merciless cross-
 fire upon the gallant and almost
 victorious defenders of the hill.
 The Americans, outnumbered and
 out-flanked, beat a hasty, though
 orderly, retreat down the hill, across
 the bridge, and up to Washington's
 camp on Dusenbury's Hill, while
 the British occupied the hill they
 had vacated. The battle had been
 short, and the British were victori-
 ous. The loss of the Americans in
 killed and wounded was not over
 one hundred though many strag-
 glers were taken prisoners. The
 British loss, however, was at least
 two hundred and twenty-nine killed
 and wounded. The latter were re-





THE SPEEDWAY IN WINTER

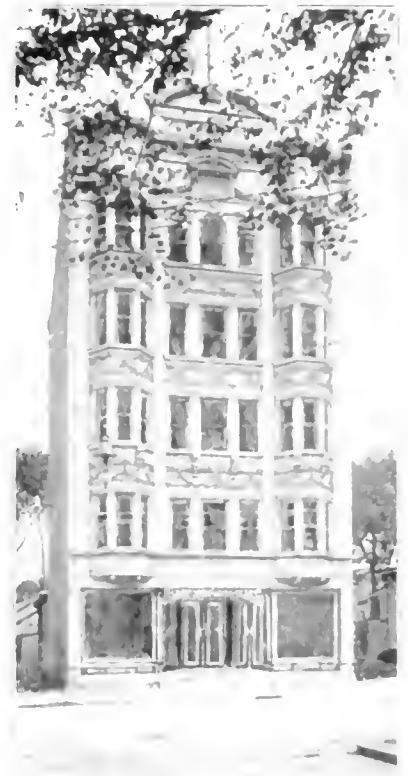
moved to and cared for in the temporary hospital at the old Quimby homestead on the Post Road, recently pulled down.

Had General Howe followed up his advantage, and made a vigorous attack all along the line, as he had originally planned, he would probably have been successful, and the cause of American Independence have been irretrievably lost. But his advantage had been gained at so severe a cost that he hesitated to take any further risk until he had received re-inforcements. Doubtless, he remembered the victory so dearly bought at Bunker Hill, and though he may have felt success to be within his grasp, he decided to be doubly sure of it. Accordingly, the British army settled down in camp and waited for the two battalions of Hessians and the four regiments which Howe had ordered from New Rochelle and New York. Three days were thus wasted before re-inforcements arrived. On the 31st, there was a drenching rain and the attack was postponed for another day.

Meanwhile, Washington had been busy cheering and inspiring his raw and disheartened troops, by keeping them at work throwing up strong works in the rear on the heights of North Castle. These hills were steep and inaccessible, and commanded the roads and approaches to the north. There the army would be securely fortified and able to withstand any attack that Howe might make. Thither the stores and cannon were quietly removed, and on the night of the 31st the whole army vacated their camp at White Plains and retired to their impregnable position at North Castle. The movement was decisive. Howe had been outgeneraled. When he took possession of the abandoned camp of the Americans, on the morning of November 1st, he realized that his plans had failed and there was no prospect of success except by a long siege during the months of the fast approaching Winter. After several days of inactivity and irresolution,



THE HOUSE OF GENERAL HOWE



THE HOUSE OF GENERAL HOWE

Howe's army moved camp and moved his army to Dobbs Ferry and thence by the river road towards New York. It is well known in recent years, that one of the causes of Howe's sudden change of base, was the treachery of capturing Fort Mifflin, which was still held by the Americans, owing to the treachery of an officer of the garrison there, who had betrayed to the British commander the plan of the fort and its approaches, and full information concerning the garrison, its stores and munitions, thus making its capture possible and easy.

On the 6th of November, Washington held a council of war, and it was unanimously agreed to throw the troops into New Jersey, and on the 6th, the movement was made leaving only a few thousand troops under General Lee until all fear of attack from Howe should be over. Lee remained at North Castle for a fortnight and then joined the rest of the army in New Jersey.

This passed one of the most critical periods in the history of the Revolutionary war. The little fight of half an hour on Chatterton Hill, on the 11th of November, and like the fight at Bunker Hill, disastrous to the American force, yet was the turning point in the apparently victorious march of the British arms.

The flight after Howe's withdrawal was celebrated with great hilarity by the American officers, and disgraced by acts of the most execrable vandalism committed by the soldiers from Massachusetts, who burned the Court House, the City Hall, the Clergy, and many private dwellings and stores. Thence they moved on to the town, being in neutral territory, was burned and the town was left a desolation, and it remained so for many years. White Plains was a desolate and deserted village and all enterprise and spirit had been crushed out.



THE HOUSE OF GENERAL HOWE

Remains of Washington's entrenchments are still to be seen on Dusenbury's Hill, and a small rampart with a mortar mounted on it—illustrated on cover page—has been sacredly preserved on Broadway, opposite the residence of Wm. A. Woodworth, Esq. The entrenchments on Mount Misery, west of the reservoir in North Castle, are also very distinctly visible. The headquarters of Washington during his stay here, was the old house now standing near the North White Plains Railroad station at the base of Mount Misery.

The old house known as the headquarters, occupied by General Lafayette in 1776, is also standing, on Spring Street.

The old house known as the John Falkener house occupied by British officers in 1776, stood on the lot north of and adjoining the residence of Wm. R. Brown on Broadway, and was torn down several years ago.



ORAWA PLUM HOTEL.



THE ELBERON HOTEL.



RESIDENCE OF E. T. HOPKINS

Newspapers.—White Plains is exceptionally fortunate in its newspapers. The oldest paper in the County, *The Eastern State Journal* was established here in May, 1845, and has been published continuously since. *The Westchester News* was established in 1871. *The Westchester County Reporter*, since May, 1891, and *The White Plains Argus* issued its first number in 1896. All are enterprising and successful weeklies, ably edited, and well conducted; the fact of White Plains being the County seat enables the papers to give attention to the news of the courts and County offices, as well as the happenings of the village and adjacent towns.



RAILROAD AVENUE

institution, is of the very highest order, and each year finds its business improved, and its condition more prosperous.

The brief description and the illustrations herein, are designed to reach those who desire homes, and have not yet seen White Plains, or heard of its many advantages as a desirable place of residence.

Good elevation, pure air, and pure water; accessibility to his place of business and excellent railway service. Improved and shaded streets. Well equipped local stores and markets. Good schools and churches. Good sanitary conditions and fine drives, make White Plains "The" Ideal spot to locate a home.

To all such, White Plains extends a hearty welcome. In the words of the great actor when called before the curtain at the end of the play, "My friends what would you more?"



AUDITORIUM



